

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 3, 2021

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland,

Under your leadership, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has made tremendous strides to restore a sense of legitimacy and independence to the important work carried out by its more than 110,000 employees. While the previous Administration politicized the DOJ and ignored serious domestic threats that faced our nation, I applaud your recognition and subsequent actions to address the seriousness of the growing extremism within our country. As lies and calls for violence poison the minds of Americans with hate, division, and conspiracy theories, I know the DOJ will not stand idly by.

I was encouraged by your statement in last month's Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on domestic terrorism when you stated, "It's fair to say that in my career as a judge and in law enforcement I have not seen a more dangerous threat to democracy than the invasion of the Capitol." I could not agree more on the level and severity of this threat. We must remain vigilant in our efforts to hold all individuals involved in the January 6th terrorist attack on the U.S. Capitol accountable for their actions, and we must continue to evaluate and investigate similar threats to prevent such a flagrant attack on our seat of government from ever occurring again.

With this in mind, I write to bring your attention to an alarming development in our ongoing battle against domestic terrorism. When public figures use rhetoric emblematic of the events from January 6th, targeted towards the same groups and individuals that initiated the violence from the attack on the U.S. Capitol, the DOJ must take notice.

This past weekend, retired Lieutenant General Michael Flynn endorsed a military coup in the United States. He said there is "no reason" why a Myanmar-style coup couldn't happen in America, and then continued on to say that "it should happen here."

Such blatant and dangerous calls for continued violence against the United States and our government are reprehensible. These sentiments expressed by retired Lt. Gen. Flynn, when coupled with his previous behavior and connections to extremist groups that initiated the attack on the U.S. Capitol, warrant a thorough DOJ-led investigation. While Lt. Gen. Flynn's words themselves may be protected by the First Amendment, his conduct and continued calls for

violence against the lawful authorities of the United States are likely to inspire continued instances of domestic terrorism. For this reason, Lt. Gen. Flynn poses a serious threat to our country, and his sentiments should be taken and thoroughly investigated at face value.

I am aware of the caution exercised when members of the legislative branch seek action from the DOJ. An independent DOJ that pursues justice for justice's sake is crucial to our democracy. But we cannot ignore clear and present danger when it makes itself so publicly known. I respectfully request that the DOJ fully evaluates this developing threat.

I thank you for your attention and for your consideration of these views. You have dedicated your career to serving our nation, and I know that there is no one better suited to identify emerging threats and pursue justice to protect the United States of America than yourself and the committed staff at the Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brendan F. Boyle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress